

CHARITON COURIER

C. P. VANDIVER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR
KEYTESVILLE, MISSOURI

A NEW town in Wisconsin has been named for Taft. If that town ever has any officers guilty of graft the story can be told in rhyme, although it may be an occasion for very emphatic and even profane prose.

THE man in January who pronounced the peach buds dead has given place to the man in March who says that peach buds are still alive and that an abundant crop of that luscious fruit is promised for this year.

THE corporations will not suffer if President Taft's cabinet can prevent it. So far as the corporations are concerned President Taft is proving true to those from whom the fat was tried to bring about his election.

WE don't believe much in foreign missions as long as there is about 62 per cent of the total population of the United States who are not members of any church, while a great many who are in the church are but little more than heathens. According to Dr. H. K. Carroll of New York there are 34,382,543 communicants of all the churches in the United States.

IF Keytesville husbands would quit paying the bills for goods that their wives buy in the large cities instead of from home merchants Keytesville would soon get to be a much better town. The habit that some people have of sending away from home for goods is about as hurtful to a town as booze is to a man. One helps to put the town out of business and the other dwarfs the intellect and saps the physical structure of its victim.

A TENNESSEE lawyer, in an effort to save the neck of two men who shot down on the street the editor of a newspaper, advocated this summary proceeding as a proper regulation of the freedom of the press. He can scarcely object if the newspaper brethren retaliate by advocating an open season all the year 'round for the bagging of that type of lawyer who, for a fee, seeks to undermine the criminal law by such appeals to lawlessness.

SHORTLY after he had assumed the reins of government, President Taft had occasion to consult the constitution. He looked in vain for a copy of that venerable document in the office lately occupied by Roosevelt. Finally one was found in an outer room. Teddy had never had any use for such a musty and obsolete creation close at hand. The copy in the outer room was probably kept there for use in target practice. At any rate the constitution had been shot full of holes long before Roosevelt stepped down.

THE Arkansas legislature passed a law at the present session, and one that it would not be a bad idea for Missouri to adopt, providing for the arrest of persons appearing in an intoxicated condition at any public gathering, picnic, etc., or in any public park or other place where the public customarily congregates. The most important provision of the measure, however, is that which gives to all train conductors the power to arrest persons found in an intoxicated condition on their train, with directions to turn such prisoners over to the magistrate at the nearest railroad point, together with the names of two competent witnesses who shall appear to testify in the case. Fines on conviction vary from \$10 to \$25. In addition to being made a peace officer for the arrest of intoxicated persons, the conductor is also authorized to deputize assistants in case he may need them.

THE COURIER did a great work for the "drys" during the local campaign a year ago, but now a few gentlemen, who were outspoken for local option and vociferously endorsed the COURIER's course at that time, are severing their subscription to this paper because they are being presented with another Chariton county paper FREE OF CHARGE. In short, they are being bribed with a gift of small value to turn their back upon the COURIER and thus give the lie to their often expressed appreciation of this paper's fight for local option. We are always glad to part company with a hypocrite, and if there are any more cattle of that ilk who don't want to take the COURIER and pay for it we invite them to come in, settle their account to date and quit, whether they be ministers of the gospel, professed Christians or ordinary sinners. No man should undertake to sail under false colors. The COURIER is not giving bribes to any man or set of men for their influence nor taking "bribes" for its "influence." The COURIER never sneaks. You always know where to find it on all public questions, and the subscription price is only \$1 a year. The COURIER is true to its friends and respects its enemies who fight in the open, but loathes its pretended friends who stab us in the back and who can be bought with a year's FREE subscription to another newspaper.

IT is whispered in the capitol corridors at Washington that Wall street, the trusts, the Wisconsin re-actionaries and the defeated members of congress from Wisconsin have in the last few days held a meeting at which a game was framed up to beat Senator La Follette for re-election. All the interests named are bitterly hostile to the fearless and pugnacious little man who has been such a thorn in the side of the railroads and the hack politicians, their hired men

in his own state, and who has given the senate oligarchy so much trouble since becoming a member of the greatest deliberative body in the world. It is said that Senator Stephenson, who is implacable in his hatred of La Follette because the latter dared to oppose his re-election to the senate, assured his fellow-conspirators at the meeting mentioned that he, himself, and the representatives in the senate of Wall street and the trusts would undertake to finance the movement to defeat his colleague. It remains to be seen whether there is sufficient manhood and integrity among the people of Wisconsin to rally to the defense of their own interests or whether they will permit La Follette to be sacrificed for the vengeance of the special interests he has fought so well.

THE fraudulent registration of something like 4,000 Republican negro votes in St. Louis goes to show that the cry for "honest elections" by the Globe-Democrat and the Republican bosses of that city was only for the purpose of divesting the public mind. Just as long as the negro allows himself to be used as a tool to do the dirty work of the Republican party, or any other political party for that matter, just so long will be a stench in the nostrils of decency and a menace to public morals. There is no class of citizens who could do as much to further their own interests and elevate their race as the negroes if they would become independent voters and make it an invariable rule to vote against the party whose leaders undertake to use them for selfish purposes and often corrupt ends for which the poor negroes have to pay the penalty for their misdeeds, and the Republican tricksters, who put up the jobs in the darkies, go scot free.

THE first bill to pass both branches of the present session of the Missouri legislature was a

measure providing for county school supervision. This new law applies to every county in the state and meets the approbation of Governor Hadley, who regards it as a step forward in the interest of education. A school supervisor will have charge of all the schools in the county in which he is elected and will receive a salary from \$600 to \$1,500 a year, according to population, and is expected to devote his entire time to looking after the various schools. If he does his whole duty the result ought to be more uniform schools and on a higher plane than under present conditions. Money that is judiciously spent in the cause of the advancement of education is always money well spent.

BILLS have been introduced in the legislatures of New York, Pennsylvania and some other states setting apart October 12 as "Columbus day" and designating it a legal holiday. The order of the Knights of Columbus is behind a movement to make this day, the anniversary of the discovery of America, a legal holiday the country over. It seems indeed strange that, in the multiplicity of holidays, the claims of the discoverer of America have been entirely overlooked heretofore. Poor Columbus never gained a fair measure of either material benefit or glory from his great discovery. He was thrown into jail by the monarch to whom his enterprise had brought wealth and honor. Then, instead of the new world which he opened up to the old world being named for him in grateful recognition of his marvelous achievement, the name of an obscure adventurer was immortalized by attaching it to the new land. The legalization of Columbus day will be a tardy but fitting recognition of the great discoverer's claim to glory.

THE news of the discovery that some \$3,000,000 due the state of Pennsylvania from corporations for taxes remain unpaid will hardly excite astonishment. Pennsylvanians are too hardened to revelations of graft and corruption in their government to exhibit more than a languid interest in fresh disclosures.

FARMERS who will not drag the roads along their farms are not entitled to and should not be permitted to enjoy the privilege of rural free mail delivery. In furnishing such mail service the government is put to an enormous expense and as an evidence of appreciation of those on rural mail routes the public roads should be kept in good condition.

STATE AUDITOR JOHN GORDON ON TAXATION.

A great amount of talk has been indulged in here at Jefferson City, and as a member of the state board of equalization, I have received many letters from St. Louis and other parts of the state, suggesting and requesting that I should vote to raise the valuation of the farm lands of the state sufficiently to bring in to the state treasury enough revenue to adequately meet the growing demands of the different state offices and state institutions. I admit that there is ground for apprehension that the state will be unable to meet all demands made on its treasury, under our present system and mode of raising revenue.

The idea has been spread abroad throughout the state for a number of years that all property other than farm lands has been assessed at a very high rate of valuation, and farm lands at a very low rate of valuation. I, too, believed that this was the case until I came into the office of auditor of state. Since taking charge of this office, I have spent quite a little time investigating extensively the sources of the state's revenue, and from deductions which I show below, I am convinced that the farmer's land is assessed at a higher rate of valuation than any other class of property, excepting bankers, who pay upon their capital stock and surplus, which is assessed at 55 per cent of its true value. From statements made to the state senate of Missouri, this year of 1909, by the individual assessors of each county, a copy of which I have before me, I find that the real estate of the state is assessed at an average of 30 per cent of its actual cash value.

I want to give below to the people of the state some figures showing what per cent of money, notes and bonds of the state is assessed, as compared to their actual cash value.

I find that in September, 1908, there was on deposit in the various banks of the state, \$512,686,500; that the amount of money, notes and bonds returned by the assessors of the state for taxable purposes, for the year 1908, was \$85,618,582. This last amount was assessed at an average of 66 per cent, which shows the amount of money, notes and bonds on which taxes can be collected for 1909. This amounts to the paltry sum of \$56,508,264.12, which is only 11 2-100 per cent of the actual cash value of money, notes and bonds of the state, while on real estate the assessed valuation is 30 per cent of its real or cash value.

I wish to say to my friends over the state, who have talked with me about raising real estate to its actual cash value, that I am unalterably opposed to doing so, until some plan is inaugurated whereby the people who own the money of the state will be made to pay taxes on it in some form or other. If that can be done, there will be no cause for alarm at there not being sufficient revenue to meet each and every demand on the state treasury.

CASORIA.
Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Ritchie*

You needn't be afraid.

One day a lady who had been reared in the careful luxury of the old-fashioned Virginia home was invited to visit the kitchen of a great Chicago hotel. She wanted to go, but was afraid. When asked why, she replied, "I'm afraid I'll see something that will forever destroy my appetite for hotel food." She went, and found everything delightfully clean.

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This wonderful food is sold in three kinds of packages. The regular package at 10c. The large size family package at 25c, and the large size family package containing a fine piece of table china at 30c.

TOO RANK FOR HEALING.

It is rarely that a man is found with the moral courage and sublime sense of duty necessary to give up a lucrative, influential public position rather than do something required by his superiors which his own conscience does not approve.

Such a man has come to light in United States District Attorney Joseph B. Kealing of Indianapolis, who was called upon to participate in the extraordinary prosecution of certain editors who incurred the wrath of President Roosevelt in the Panama canal controversy. In his letter to President Taft tendering his resignation rather than participate in the attempt to revive the spirit of the dead and dishonored sedition law of John Adams' day, Mr. Kealing administered this stinging rebuke to the Rooseveltian idea:

"I am not in accord with the government in its attempt to put a strained construction on the law, to drag the defendants from their homes to the seat of the government to be tried and punished, while there is a good and sufficient law in this jurisdiction, in the state court. I believe the principle involved is dangerous, striking at the very foundation of our form of government. I can not, therefore, honestly and conscientiously insist to the court that such is the law, or that such construction should be put on it. Not being able to do this I do not feel that I can, in justice to my office, continue to hold it and decline to assist."

Mr. Kealing's brave, conscientious action commends itself to the approval of all right-thinking people. And his characterization of the Roosevelt attempt to intimidate and muzzle the press as being "dangerous, striking at the very foundation of our form of government," should convince any doubters, if such there have been, that the proposed action of the government in these cases, if carried out, will be an outrage, marking the first pronounced step in the effort of an imperialistically-trending government to deprive the people of their constitutional rights.

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